

# PEN CITY CURRENT

It's Black & White and Read all over

Friday, June 10, 2022 | 13 pages | Volume 6 • Issue 105



www.pencitycurrent.com

## Pickleball cookout set for tonight

**FUNDRAISER:** Funds still needed for \$250,000 project in Victory Park

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – The much-anticipated Fort Madison Pickleball courts will get a boost from a cookout fundraiser Friday night from 4 to 7 p.m. to help offset costs associated with its quarter-million dollar effort.

The group, working under the umbrella of the Fort Madison Beautification Foundation, is raising funds to build six new pickleball courts in Victory Park on the site of the former tennis ball courts.

The tennis courts in Victory Park were refurbished in 2015, but the work didn't last very long and the court itself, which was an overlay, began to ripple quickly and the courts became unusable.

Efforts began within the city park board to either refurbish the tennis courts properly or abandon them for other options.

Fort Madison City Councilwoman Donna Amandus is part of the group spearheading the effort. She said preliminary estimates indicate the work will cost about \$250,000 and the committee began fundraising.

The group received half of the funding through a \$75,000 commitment from Southeast Iowa Regional Riverboat Commission and \$50,000 from the city.

They also held a fundraiser in Riverview Park where they set up pickleball courts to residents to try the sport.

Crews have already taken down trees and the fencing around the former tennis courts and pulled up the foundation. A new subsurface has been put down and a ground breaking ceremony is set for Monday, June 20 at 1 p.m.

### GARDEN TOUR

## FMAAA has full June schedule

FORT MADISON – The Fort Madison Area Arts Association will be holding its annual Garden Tour on Sunday, June 26th. The event highlights a full slate of activities at the FMAAA center during the month of June.

**Raku Pottery Class – June 15th 5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.** – Raku is a technique that rapidly heats up the pottery to 1800 degrees then it is treated according to various techniques. In this case, horse hair is applied flashing away in the heat and leaving a telltale patterning on the surface. The second of two classes offered in June with a combined July outdoor firing date planned. No experience necessary. This class takes you through the basics of handbuilding to make your own piece. Cost is \$45 per person.

**Zentangles Class – Thursday, June 23rd 6:30-8:30 p.m.** – Design your own cards and bookmarks using repeating patterns. Easy entry level class offered by Diane Jennings. \$10 covers all of the materials — get your group together and get signed up!

**Lunch ala Art – Friday, June 24th at noon** – “Stories behind the Pictures” Gallery Talk by Grace Bell after the luncheon. Reservations recommended for lunch. Cost is \$9/person. The gallery talk is a free event — you do not need to eat lunch with us to attend.

**FINALE – Saturday, June 25th 6 p.m. – 9 p.m.** – Music concert by Iowa Ear Ensemble members John Lake, Patrick Hazell, Will & Grace Parsons. NOT TO BE MISSED!! Join us for a memorable night of music making at the Art Center in the Main Gallery. This month's exhibit was provided through the generous sponsorship of Green Frog Distillery.

**Fort Madison Garden Tour – Sunday, June 26th noon-4 p.m.** Tickets \$8 adv / \$10 day of – Six locations are on this year's Fort Madison Garden Tour, some with area artists Jim Topic, Carlene Atwater, and Rebecca Williamson and musicians on hand to enhance the event.



Courtesy photo

Four city blocks were again full of visitors to the Downtown Summer Market Thursday on Avenue G in Fort Madison. The event brings food, craft and social club vendors, and fun to 7th-10 Streets.

### COUNTY NEWS

## NLCHS to hold 60th anniversary reception

On Thursday June 16 the current officers and members of the North Lee County Historical Society will be hosting the 60th anniversary reception to commemorate and review all the accomplishments of the non-profit organization since its humble beginnings back in 1962.

Mainly a group of history-minded area residents had the great idea of starting a museum, but more importantly the idea was to save the crumbling one-room school, called Brush College that had been abandoned.

Those interested found the local Soroptimist Club and the Fort Mad-

ison Council of Service Clubs also interested and backed the founding of the Society.

The enthusiasm grew and within a couple of years the Brush College building was restored and quite a

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### WEATHER

**FRI 10 Jun**.....Light Rain, 72° F/ 60° F  
**SAT 11 Jun**.....Light Rain, 80° F/ 58° F  
**SUN 12 Jun**.....Rain, 78° F/ 68° F

OpenWeatherMap

### IOWA LOTTERY

**LOTTO AMERICA 06/08**.....215 29 39 42, Star Ball: 1 All Star Bonus: 2  
**LUCKY FOR LIFE 06/08**.....5 14 16 25 26, Lucky Ball: 10  
**PICK 3 06/08 MIDDAY**.....6 5 0  
**PICK 3 06/08 EVENING**.....2 2 1  
**PICK 4 06/08 MIDDAY**.....19 9 4  
**PICK 4 06/08 EVENING**.....9 3 2 4  
**POWERBALL 06/08**.....22 39 43 62 64, Powerball: 7 Power Play: 4

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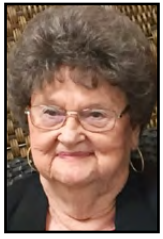
# Obituaries

## OBITUARIES

### BERTHA M. MERSCHBROCK

Bertha Mary Merschbrock, 94, of West Point, Iowa, passed away at 9:43 a.m. Monday, June 6, 2022, at the West Point Care Center, West Point, Iowa.

She was born on January 23, 1928, in Fort Madison, Iowa, the daughter of Frank and Eva (Moeller) Harvey. On September 20, 1947, she married Ambrose Henry Merschbrock in Houghton, Iowa. He preceded her in death on June 3, 1993.



MERSCHBROCK

Survivors include her children: Robert (Barbara) Merschbrock, Richard (Kathy Smith) Merschbrock, Dan (Marsha) Merschbrock, Dale (Deina) Merschbrock, Dennis (Patty) Merschbrock, Deb (Dave Lohman) Cook and Diane (Roger) Bailey; seventeen grandchildren and twenty-eight great grandchildren. Also surviving are several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband: Ambrose; son: Ronald; granddaughter: Heather; two brothers and three sisters.

Bertha graduated from Donnellson High School. She retired from the Iowa Army Ammunition Plant. She was a member of St. Mary of the Assumption Catholic Church in West Point, the Altar and Rosary Society of the church, American Legion Auxiliary, Senior Citizen Club and the YMCA Water Aerobics. She enjoyed playing euchre and quilting.

Friends may call after 12:00 noon Friday, June 10, 2022, at Schmitz Funeral Home in West Point, where the family will receive friends from 3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. that evening. A parish rosary will be recited at 4:00 p.m. and a Christian wake service will be held at 6:30 p.m. at the funeral home.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, June 11, 2022, at St. Mary's Catholic Church in West Point with Father Dennis Hoffman as celebrant.

Burial will be at Calvary Cemetery in West Point, Iowa.

A memorial has been established in her memory for St. Mary's Catholic Church or West Point Fire and Rescue.

Online condolences may be made to the family at [www.schmitzfuneralhomes.com](http://www.schmitzfuneralhomes.com). Schmitz Funeral Home of West Point is assisting the family with arrangements.

#### Pen City Current obituary policy

Pen City Current runs obituaries one time at no charge to funeral homes and they run the day they are submitted in most cases. They are also run as submitted by the funeral homes. Reposting of obituaries due to changes can only be requested by the submitting funeral home and will be assessed a \$15 reposting

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Dr. De La Rosa is fluent in Spanish. She enjoys trying new foods, reading mysteries and watching movies.



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## OBITUARIES

### DONNIE L. CLIFT

Donnie "Don" Lee Clift, 82, of Kahoka died Friday, June 3, 2022 at his home in Kahoka. He was born December 2, 1939 in Alexandria, MO the son of John and Helen Oberman Clift.



CLIFT

Don graduated from Kahoka High School with the Class of 1957. He joined the Iowa Army National Guard in 1961 and proudly served for six years.

On November 17, 1962 he was united in marriage to Rosalie Raymond at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Keokuk, IA. They were married for 59 years. She survives.

He is also survived by four daughters, Sherry Koonce of Ste. Genevieve, MO, Kathy Randolph and her husband Kipp of Donnellson, IA, Debbie Malone and her husband Kirt of Palmyra, MO, and Cindy Kumm and her husband Jake of Palmyra, MO, six grandchildren, Kevin Randolph and his wife Ashley, Kyle Randolph, Brock Malone, Kaden Malone, Bennett Lee Kumm and Brayleigh Kumm, two step great-grandchildren, Vayda Nichols and Kenley Nichols, brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law, Ken Raymond of Quincy, IL, Phyllis Hodges and her husband Larry of Quincy, IL, and Karen Raymond of Orange Park, FL, as well as nieces, nephews, cousins, and other relatives.



He was preceded in death by his parents and a brother, James Arthur Clift, brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law, Harold J. Raymond and his wife Linda, Marilyn Griggs and her husband Albert, Ron Raymond, and aunts and uncles.

Don was of the Methodist faith and attended St. Michael's Catholic Church with his wife. He was a member of the Frazee Cemetery Board for many years.

Don was a lifelong farmer which he loved. His grandchildren looked forward to riding the tractor with him. Telling jokes and making people laugh was his specialty. He wrote annual birthday poems for his wife and daughters which they treasured. In his younger years he enjoyed fishing, hunting, square dancing, and playing volleyball. Don was a wonderful husband, father, and grandfather. He especially loved the time he spent with his family and friends.

A Mass of Christian burial will be held 11:00 a.m. Friday, June 10 at St. Michael Catholic Church in Kahoka with Father Rob Fields officiating. Burial will be in the Frazee Cemetery.

Visitation will be held after 1 p.m. Thursday, June 9 at the Vigen Memorial Home in Kahoka with the family meeting with friends from 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. A wake service will be held at 5 p.m.

Memorials are suggested to Frazee Cemetery or Donor's Choice.

Online condolences may be made to the family at [www.vigenmemorialhome.com](http://www.vigenmemorialhome.com).

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# PEN CITY CURRENT

It's Black & White and Read all over

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**Founded in 2016**  
 P.O. Box 366 | Fort Madison, IA

# Obituaries/Iowa News

## OBITUARIES

### KIMBERLEE A. MANSHEIM

Kimberlee A. Mansheim, 59, of Fort Madison, IA, passed away at 8:53 PM on Saturday, June 4, 2022 at the Southeast Iowa Regional Medical Center in Ft. Madison.

She was born on June 22, 1962 in Ft. Madison to William and Martha Davis Boeding.



MANSHEIM

On September 22, 1984 she married Robert Mansheim at Sacred Heart Church Ft. Madison. In her early years, Kimberlee raised her six kids as well as babysitting other children. She obtained her nursing degree and was an LPN at The Madison and retired after twelve years of service. Kimberlee loved gardening, flowers, cooking and reading. She was always very well organized and loved planning for all the family holidays and gatherings.

Survivors include her husband, Robert "Rob" Mansheim of Ft. Madison; three sons, Derreck (Ginna) Mansheim of Monmouth, IL, Andrew (Brittany) Mansheim of Pekin, IL and Keegan (Kassidy) Mansheim of Ft. Madison; three daughters, Micaela (Tom) Bourgeois of Columbia, IL, Liandra Mansheim and Robin Mansheim both of Ft. Madison; three grandchildren, Kate, Kole & Dora; two sisters, Cathy (Robert) Ratcliff of Clarkston, MI and Kelly Boeding of Ft. Madison; her beloved dog, Charlie; her father and mother in law, Robert & Diane Mansheim and several brothers and sisters in law. She was preceded in death by her parents.

The family will meet with friends on Sunday, June 12, 2022 from 1-3 PM at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory. The funeral mass will be held on Monday, June 13, 2022 at 10:30 AM at Sacred Heart Church with Rev. Marty Goetz officiating. Burial will follow in Gethsemane Cemetery.

A memorial has been established for PAW Animal Shelter or Little Bit of Country Dog Rescue and online condolences may be left at [www.kinglynk.com](http://www.kinglynk.com).

### MARVIN J. GINGRICH

Marvin John Gingrich, 82, of Denmark, Iowa died at 8:05 am Sunday, June 5, 2022 at his home. He was born February 24, 1940, in Iowa, a son of Frank J. and Lucille (Staff) Gingrich. On June 26, 1960, he married Kay Raid at Denmark, Iowa.



GINGRICH

He attended Sawyer Grade School through the 8th grade and then graduated from the Denmark Academy High School in 1958. He was a farmer. He attended the Denmark Congregational United Church of Christ.

Marvin is survived by his wife, Kay; one brother, Harold Gingrich of Woodland Hills, California; one sister, Irene Hoskins of Denmark, Iowa; numerous nieces and nephews, adopted grandchildren: Morgan Bobb (Jake) Swanson and Zach (Aubree) Bobb, and numerous friends. He was preceded in death by his parents and two sons, Troy and Tod.

Per his wishes, his body has been cremated. His family will greet friends from 1:30 - 3:00 pm Sunday, June 12, 2022 at the Denmark Congregational United Church of Christ in Denmark. A Celebration of Life Service will follow and begin at 3:00 pm Sunday at the church. A private burial will be held at a later date at Fairview Cemetery. A memorial has been established for the Denmark Firefighters Foundation, Inc. and the Fairview Cemetery, contributions may be mailed to Kay Gingrich at 808 Houston Ave, Fort Madison, Iowa 52627 or to Barr Memorial Chapel. Barr Memorial Chapel is honored to serve the Gingrich family and an online guest book may be found at [www.barrmemorialchapel.com](http://www.barrmemorialchapel.com).

## OBITUARIES

### WARREN D. HOENIG

Warren D. Hoenig, 67, of Fort Madison, IA, passed away at 10:54 a.m. on Thursday, June 9, 2022 in Fort Madison. He was born on March 7, 1955 in Fort Madison, IA to Lawrence & Mary Ort Hoenig. He married Becky Rippenkroeger on October 18, 1980 in Fort Madison, IA. He was a lifelong farmer and owned & operated Boonies Bar with his wife. He was a member of Izaak Walton and the Eagles Club and enjoyed socializing with his friends and spending time with his grandchildren.



HOENIG

Warren is survived by: his wife: Becky Hoenig of Fort Madison, IA; 3-daughters: Bonnie (Randy) Ellison of West Point, IA, Jennifer (Jason) Wenke of Fort Madison, IA & Andrea Hoenig of Fort Madison, IA; 2-sons: David (Barb) Hoenig of Revere, MO & Darren (Heidi) Hoenig of Argyle, IA; 24-grandchildren; several great & great great grandchildren; 2-brothers: Harry (Linda) Hoenig of Fort Madison, IA & Roger (Laura) Hoenig of Fort Madison, IA; 4-sisters: Judy (Harlan) Sugars of Denmark, IA, Beverly (George) Brown of Fort Madison, IA, Karen Hoenig of Farmington, IA & Sherri (Clarence) Hartson of Fort Madison, IA. He was preceded in death by his parents, 1-son in infancy: Charles, 1-sister: Jane Siefers & his daughter's lifelong companion: Justin Westermeyer.

Cremation has been entrusted to the care of King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory. A celebration of Warren's life will be held at a later date at Boonies Bar. A memorial has been established for P.A.W. Animal Shelter or Izaak Walton and may be sent to: Becky Hoenig, 2698 241st Street, Fort Madison, IA 52627. Online condolences may be left at the King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory website: [www.kinglynk.com](http://www.kinglynk.com).

## Input sought on electric vehicle program

AMES – Consistent with Governor Reynolds' initiative to evaluate the State of Iowa's electric vehicle infrastructure, which began in 2018 and resulted in a statewide EV report, the Iowa DOT is requesting public input to help shape the Iowa Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Plan, currently in development. An online survey, featuring questions about transportation and electric vehicles, is now open and can be accessed at [www.iowadot.gov/IowaEVPlan](http://www.iowadot.gov/IowaEVPlan).

The state of Iowa has been a leader in embracing new opportunities in clean energy technology to benefit its residents, economy and the environment. Renewable energy production continues to grow while more citizens, businesses and visitors desire to power their vehicles sustainably. As technology continues to evolve, more challenges and opportunities will present themselves, and the state will continue to respond to the ever-changing environment as a leader in renewable energy produc-

tion.

As such, the State of Iowa will use its portion of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act funds to support the continued development of electric vehicle charging infrastructure. Iowa is joining many other states in developing plans to create a national EV charging network along major transportation corridors.

Iowa expects to receive around \$51.4 million in federal funds from this program over five years. To be eligible to receive funds, the state needs to submit a State-wide Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Plan by August 1, 2022.

Survey input provided by June 24, 2022, will be used by Iowa DOT and its partners to inform plan development. The survey will take approximately 10 minutes to complete. To learn more about the plan, electric vehicles and charging stations in Iowa, visit the project website at [www.iowadot.gov/IowaEVPlan](http://www.iowadot.gov/IowaEVPlan).

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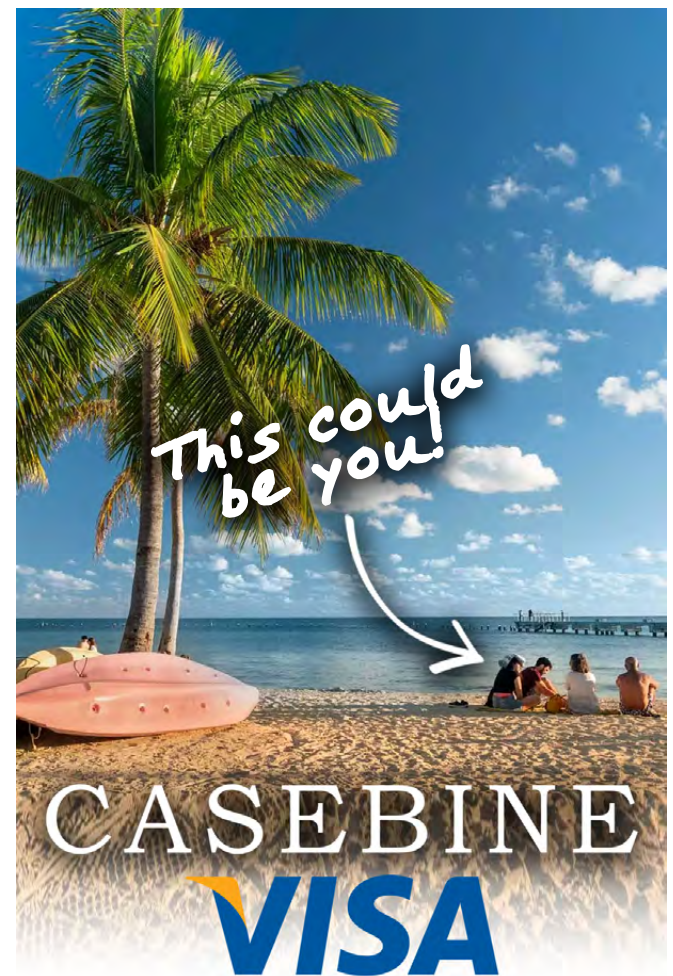


Images for reference only. Actual product may vary.



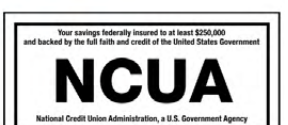
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## Honor Rolls/From the Front

# Holy Trinity Catholic High School releases honor

BY PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON – Holy Trinity Catholic Schools has announced its fourth quarter and second semester honor rolls for the 2021-2022 school year. Pen City Current joins our advertisers and readers in congratulating these students on their academic success. Job well done!

4th Quarter Honor Roll  
4.0 Honor Roll  
7th Grade  
Eva Denning, Elizabeth Griffin, Ellie Hellman, Sydney Jarvis, Adalyn Kruse, Max Kruse, Kara Lake, Emma Scheetz, Emmalyn Snaadt, Brooklyn Todd  
8th Grade  
Chase Hemann, Addison Link, Presley Myers  
9th Grade  
Koby Jones  
10th Grade

Michael Chapman, Taegan Denning, Conner Gehling, Jenna Hellman, Natalie Randolph, Maddox Rung  
11th Grade  
Laura Mehmert, Rachel Menke, Jacob Pothitakis, Riley Timmerman  
12th Grade  
Sophie Gram, Jack Malinski, Mitchell Pothitakis, Cassidy Randolph, Anna Sobczak  
A Honor Roll  
7th Grade  
Kat DiPrima, Megan Holtkamp, Elijah Kline, Caleb Rea, Tanner Williams  
8th Grade  
Nathan Box, Johnathan Hummel, Emma Mohrfeld, Carson Pauly, Layne Rung, Brock Scheetz, McKayla Schin-stock, Isabella Wheatley-Behne  
9th Grade  
Anna Bendlage, Henry

Graham, Luke Hellige, Teagan Snaadt, Tobias VanHamme  
10th Grade  
Mary Kate Bendlage, Daltin Boeding, Sheldon Kruse, Andrew Mehmert, Ethan Peitz  
11th Grade  
Kayla Box, Alexa Dingman, Jenna DiPrima  
12th Grade  
Jackson Blint, Tessa Gendron, Lucy Graham, Abby Holtkamp, Tyler Snaadt, Jackson VanHamme  
B Honor Roll  
7th Grade  
Sara Boeding, Jack Hellman, Corbin Moeller, Gavin Peitz  
8th Grade  
James Denning, Jameson Denning, Lia Fullenkamp, Emily Hummel, Ethan McManus, Sarah Menke, Blake Mohrfeld, Corbin VanNiewaal

9th Grade  
Spencer Barnes, Clara Blint, Kylie Fortune, Cade Goodrich  
10th Grade  
Reagan Holvoet, Jacob Hummel, Seth Moeller, Edward Schroeder  
11th Grade  
Emily Boeding, Halie Cain, Mary Hellige, Brooke Mueller, James Scheetz  
12th Grade  
Michael DiPrima, Raquel Schneider, Alexis Stalcup  
2nd Semester Honor Roll  
4.0 Honor Roll  
7th Grade  
Elizabeth Griffin, Ellie Hellman, Sydney Jarvis, Adalyn Kruse, Max Kruse, Kara Lake, Emmalyn Snaadt, Brooklyn Todd, Tanner Williams  
8th Grade  
Chase Hemann  
9th Grade  
Koby Jones, Teagan Snaadt  
10th Grade  
Michael Chapman, Taegan Denning, Conner Gehling, Jenna Hellman, Sheldon Kruse,

Natalie Randolph, Maddox Rung  
11th Grade  
Laura Mehmert, Rachel Menke, Jacob Pothitakis, Riley Timmerman  
12th Grade  
Lucy Graham, Sophie Gram, Abby Holtkamp, Jack Malinski, Mitchell Pothitakis, Cassidy Randolph, Anna Sobczak  
A Honor Roll  
7th Grade  
Eva Denning, Jack Hellman, Megan Holtkamp, Elijah Kline, Caleb Rea, Emma Scheetz  
8th Grade  
Nathan Box, Addison Link, Presley Myers, Carson Pauly, Layne Rung, Brock Scheetz, McKayla Schin-stock, Corbin VanNiewaal, Isabella Wheatley-Behne  
9th Grade  
Anna Bendlage, Henry Graham, Luke Hellige  
10th Grade  
Mary Kate Bendlage, Daltin Boeding, Andrew Mehmert, Seth Moeller, Ethan Peitz  
11th Grade  
Emily Boeding, Kayla

Box, Alexa Dingman, Jenna DiPrima, James Scheetz  
12th Grade  
Jackson Blint, Tessa Gendron, Tyler Snaadt, Jackson VanHamme  
B Honor Roll  
7th Grade  
Sara Boeding, Kat DiPrima, Corbin Moeller, Gavin Peitz  
8th Grade  
James Denning, Jameson Denning, Lia Fullenkamp, Emily Hummel, Johnathan Hummel, Ethan McManus, Sarah Menke, Blake Mohrfeld, Emma Mohrfeld  
9th Grade  
Spencer Barnes, Kylie Fortune, Mason Kruse, Tobias VanHamme  
10th Grade  
Reagan Holvoet, Jacob Hummel, Edward Schroeder  
11th Grade  
Mary Hellige, Brooke Mueller  
12th Grade  
Claire Brock, Michael DiPrima, Raquel Schneider, Alexis Stalcup

## #HyperLocalSuperFresh

### IT'S BACKYARD UPGRADE TIME!



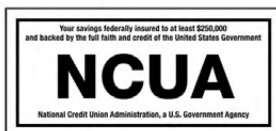
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## Garden tour set for June 26th

ART - Continued from Page 1

Join us for a beautiful self-paced tour through some of Fort Madison's most creative spaces — our own area gardens. The tour commences from the Pocket Park in the 800 block of Avenue G under the care of the Fort Madison Beautification Committee, winds its way through backyards across the breadth of the town, with a stop off at the Community Garden behind Hyvee to take in the efforts of our local volunteers who support the Food Pantry with fresh vegetables and produce. The Community Garden is organized and supported by Great River United Way. Enjoy talks by local naturalists and bee experts who will be on hand to discuss the importance of pollinators

in both our flower and vegetable gardens. This event is generously sponsored by Scotts Company. (please note: If YOU are an artist or musician that would like to appear in a garden during the Garden Tour, please contact the Art Center right away!!)

Kid's Art Camp July 11 – 15th 5-7 year olds / 8-12 year olds – The FMAAA Art Center is pleased to announce that they will be hosting their Kid's Art Camp again this year. This is an excellent creative experience for youth designed to explore a variety of concepts and art mediums. Registration is going on NOW — get your kiddos signed up before we fill up.

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## Classifieds/Public Notices

# PEN CITY CURRENT CLASSIFIEDS

### PUBLIC NOTICES

#### PUBLIC NOTICE FOR MADISON PUBLIC LIBRARY REGULAR MEETING MINUTES APRIL 22, 2022

Fort Madison Public Library Board of Trustees Minutes of the regular meeting held April 21, 2022, 5:30 p.m. in person and electronically via Zoom.

Board members present in person: Jane Bartlett, Ron Welder, Anne Heitz, Tom Pollpeter, Kathy Burkhardt and Mary Whitcomb.

Board members present online: Phil Hecht.

Others present: Sarah Clendineng, library staff. Jack Gray, city council liaison.

Meeting called to order with a quorum present at 5:30 pm.

Excused Absences: Motion to excuse the absences of Sharon Groene and Candice Smrt – Pollpeter; 2nd – Heitz.

Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Agenda: Agenda was accepted with no objections.

Public Comments: There were no public comments.

Approval of Minutes: Motion to approve the minutes of the March 17 meeting – Whitcomb; 2nd – Pollpeter.

Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of the Bills: Trustee Burkhardt inquired if the director had noticed a difference with the relocation of the thermostat. The director replied that there had been improvement in the children's program room but based on the duct connections she hadn't noticed a significant difference at the children's library desk.

Motion to approve the April bills – Heitz; 2nd – Bartlett. Carried unanimously.

Correspondence: There was no Correspondence.

Director's Report: In addition to the attached report, the director shared that the city council had approved entering into an agreement with Red Lion for solar panels on nine city buildings, one of which would be the library. This is at no cost to the city. It is the director's understanding that Red Lion will do the installation and provide all the equipment and then will sell the electricity to the city at a reduced rate, which is

where the savings come in. The city does have the option to purchase the equipment after a period of time, if they choose

to. The agreement also includes updates to the library lighting to reduce electric usage. They anticipate that this might save the library about \$5,000 per year. It will be installed on the roof but it won't be bolted down, the panels will be sitting on the roof heavily ballasted in place. Trustee Welder asked about a time frame and the director was not informed of one. Trustee Bartlett inquired if they would need to inspect the roof to be sure all is well before installation. The director replied that she hadn't thought to ask about what would happen if issues were detected before installation but she would be surprised if things are not well. There haven't been any significant leaks in the center part. Most of the leaks have been around the edges where things join together, including one in the women's restroom that has been addressed. Tom Pollpeter commented that they have this at the Lee County Conservation center and are pleased with it. Their was a question about this affecting our budget and the director replied that when we start seeing savings will depend on how soon it is installed.

Unfinished Business  
Carol Sandrock Donation -

There was clarifying discussion that the bulk of the donation was put in the building maintenance fund and \$4,000 was set aside to fund a special project. The director isn't sure if that \$4,000 will need to be moved from the building fund to the gift but she has a spread sheet to help track earnings.

She has a REAL Agenda. Rural revitalization. Education and Children. Accessible and Affordable Healthcare and Mental Healthcare. Labor Force Empowerment. REAL Leadership. REAL growth. REAL progress.

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marked donations in the gift fund.

Trustee Burkhardt said that she knows a local teacher who had written a book and suggested possibly having a book signing or using this as one of the books to be given away. Trustee Burkhardt will get her contact information to the director.

The director was looking for feedback on incentives as well as formal approval to start this program. Motion to approve using \$4,000 from the Carol Sandrock donation to being a 1000 Books Before Kindergarten program – Heitz; 2nd – Bartlett. Motion carried unanimously.

There was a question about publicizing this at Kindergarten roundup. The director replied that they won't have anything ready that soon and will be looking at the fall to launch this. The target audience for marketing this will also be more towards pediatricians and the hospitals, possibly finding out if the hospital has a new baby kit that we could add a flyer or bookmark to.

New Board Member  
The city clerk received an application from Lon Spurgin to join the board. Several board members commented that they

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thought he would be a good addition. Trustee Heitz asked if he was the only one that filled out and application and the director replied that he was. The director will recommend him to the mayor for appointment to the board.

New Business  
Election of Officers:  
Nominated of Officers were:

Nomination of Jane Bartlett for secretary  
Nomination of Sharon Groene for president  
Nomination of Ron Welder for vice-president  
Trustee Bartlett did accept her nomination for secretary as she was absent at the March meeting.

Motion to approve the slate of officers – Hecht; 2nd – Burkhardt. Motion carried unanimously.

Approve 2022/2023 Budget:  
The director presented the 2022/2023 budget

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rob Sand promised to wake up the watchdog. When Sand and the State Auditor's office come on behalf of taxpayers with questions about how the public's business is being conducted, they will not walk away.

#### Re-elect Rob Sand as State Auditor

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approved by the city council as well as the estimated spending from the library trust funds. Trustee Bartlett asked how this compared to what was requested and the director replied that the city council approved what the library requested. She also asked about what the Library Endowment fund was. The director replied that this was originally started in the 90's to improve technology at the library. While technology is no longer the primary focus it is used for larger special projects than we might do out of the gift fund.

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This fund, like the building maintenance fund, has to have two presentations to the board before money is spend out of it.

Trustee Burkhardt inquired if all of the maintenance items discussed last fall had been taken care of. The director replied that she thinks they have been.

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## Classifieds/Public Notices

# PEN CITY CURRENT CLASSIFIEDS

### PUBLIC NOTICES

Motion to approve the proposed budget – Whitcomb; 2nd – Bartlett. Carried unanimously.

2021/2022 Budget Amendments:

The director reported that all of the trust funds are in line with where spending should be but would like to increase the budget of the gift fund to \$14,000, mostly to cover summer reading expenses. We do have the money in the gift fund to cover the additional expenditures.

Motion to approve the amended budget – Heitz; 2nd – Bartlett. Motion carried unanimously.

Emergency Relocation Shelter Agreement

The director reported that the new child care facility at the hospital inquired about using the library as a possible emergency relocation shelter to bring children to until their parents could collect them. The director doesn't see a problem but wanted approval from the board, since it is a contract. The director thinks the library may be an emergency location for the schools in case of an active shooter incident but that discussion was a while ago and she should probably double check on that. Trustee Bartlett inquired about liability insurance. The director doesn't think it would be any different than when we have a daycare visit for a story hour or summer reading program. Trustee Heitz inquired if there would be a population limit on it and

the director wasn't sure. Trustee Welder inquired if it would only be during operating hours and the director replied that it would be.

Motion to approve allowing Kid Zone Childcare and Preschool to use the library as an emergency relocation shelter – Bartlett; 2nd – Heitz. Motion carried unanimously.

Approve Strategic Plan

The director presented the final draft of the 2022-2025 Strategic Plan. Trustee Bartlett inquired if there were any changes since the last presentation. The director stated that she may have changed a couple of dates and minor wording. Trustee Burkhardt inquired about the library's hours preventing them from meeting a tier level.

The director replied that for Tier 2 status with the state library, the library would have to be open 51 hours a week and we are only open 46.5 and aren't able to add more hours without more people to work.

Motion to approve the 2022-2025 Strategic Plan as presented – Bartlett; 2nd – Whitcomb. Motion carried unanimously.

Fine Free Evaluation  
The library stopped charging fines November 1 and the six month trial period would be due to end on May 1.

The director thinks it is going really well. She hasn't noticed a significant increase in people holding onto materials and not bringing them

back. There does seem to be a downward trend in the amount of overdue items, though the data collected was not detailed enough to draw a strong conclusion. The director's recommendation is to stop charging fines permanently going forward. Not being able to check out more books until you bring a book back is a more logical consequence than charging a fine. Also, if you have enough money, a fine is just the cost of doing business whereas if you don't have enough money fines can really penalize you. Trustee Heitz mentioned that the New York Public Library implemented a similar program and had more books come back than they could deal with. The director replied that we have not had that problem but the New York Public Library also waived existing fines which we did not do but would be something to consider. Trustee Welder asked how many people forgiving fines would impact.

The director replied about 2400, though most of those accounts are expired and they may not come back. These do not include lost items. The total amount of fines owed on books returned late is about \$14,000. Trustee Burkhardt inquired what would happen if those fines were forgiven and the director replied that some of them would come back and use the library again, especially if

contacted them in some way. Trustee Burkhardt suggested putting it on the library's website, to show how we are trying to support Fort Madison. There was some confusion about the difference between fines and charges for lost materials. The library is not charging for items that are brought back to the library late. However, patrons do need to pay for materials that are damaged or never returned.

Trustee Welder stated that his understanding is that the director's current recommendation is to forgive fines but not forgive lost or damages. Trustee Whitcomb inquired if the \$14,000 included lost books and the director replied that it does not. Trustee Bartlett said that more and more libraries are going that direction and Trustee Welder agreed. Trustee Welder state that, realistically, this is money that the library is never going to see.

Motion to continue with the fine free program, changing the time for patrons to be blocked to 14 days, and forgive fines for patrons who have turned in the materials and just have a monetary fine. – Burkhardt; 2nd – Bartlett. Motion carried unanimously.

Beverly Moultrie Donation

The library received a donation from the estate of Beverly Moultrie in the amount of \$110,000. Trustee Welder commented that he liked the

director's recommendations for how the funds would be spent but would like to have cost estimates for those and then determine what would be done and where the remainder of the money would be placed. The director replied that she needs to tell the city's finance director where to deposit this money before the next board meeting. Trustee Welder said his recommendation would be to deposit it into the Special Projects Endowment Fund. Trustee Pollpeter inquired about the ability to move this in 6 months and the director replied that she isn't sure what the process is for that. Trustee Burkhardt clarified that if this is a gift it doesn't have to go into the general fund and this discussion is just about where we are going to store it.

Trustee Bartlett stated that for either the special projects endowment fund or the building fund, any expenditure would require two presentations. Trustee Welder stated that the special projects fund might provide a little more flexibility. The director stated that the special projects endowment fund "should not be used for the general maintenance or upkeep of the libraries." The director thought that even a special landscaping project might be allowed under this direction. Trustee Burkhardt inquired about what self-service printing is. The director replied

that, right now, when someone prints something from a computer they come to the front desk and get their printout from a library employee. Self-service printing would let them go to a printing station, put their money in and the printer would give them their document. This is the way the photocopier currently works.

Motion to put these funds in the Special Projects Endowment Fund – Burkhardt; 2nd – Whitcomb. Motion carried unanimously.

Other Discussion

Trustee Whitcomb inquired about the item in the director's report that three people had been charged for attaching things to the walls and ceilings and inquired if the damage had been repaired. The director replied that there wasn't any damage but, to prevent significant damage, the library policy prohibits attaching anything by any means to the walls, doors, ceiling or windows. Trustee Welder inquired if there was a way to put up a sign about this. The director replied that it is on the form they sign to use the room and it is on the policy posted on the wall of the meeting room.

Trustee Burkhardt requested that the newspaper database be added to the May board meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 6:15 pm until May 19, 2022.

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# PEN CITY CURRENT CLASSIFIEDS

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## Business News/From the Front

# Blessing celebrates a year in Keokuk

KEOKUK - There was a time when Karen Bishop, a life-long resident of the region, did not trust the care available at Keokuk's hospital and would not go there. That changed this past spring when she experienced chest pain and knew she needed care quickly.

"They were wonderful," Bishop said of the team on duty the Sunday evening she arrived at the Blessing Health Keokuk emergency room. "You could tell they all cared. I was very impressed."

Those words are music to the ears of the hospital's administrator, Vickie Reneau, RN. She's been at the hospital for 20 years, the past two as administrator.

"We've been a struggling hospital for a long time," she stated.

The hospital in Keokuk was not alone. According to the National Conference of State Legislatures, between 2010 and 2021, at least 136 rural hospitals closed. Most of the closures had nothing to do with care quality, but with financial problems. That was the situation in Keokuk.

"The people who work here are committed, loyal and multi-talented," Reneau continued.

### Bringing change to Keokuk

The future began to brighten for the hospital and the communities it serves a year ago - March 2021 - when Blessing Health System, based in Quincy, IL, assumed ownership of the hospital from UnityPoint, and renamed it Blessing Health Keokuk.

At that time Blessing's President and Chief Executive Officer, Maureen Kahn, RN, MHA, MSN, said, "With the new name comes a renewed focus on improving the health of southeast Iowa and providing more consistent access to primary and specialty care."

"We're committed to investing in Keokuk's health care in-

frastructure," she continued. "We're the right partner at the right time for southeast Iowa residents—we will succeed together."

Success is happening. Over the past year new providers, new technology and a new national healthcare accreditation have come to Keokuk.

### New providers

In May 2021, as part of the improvement plan, Blessing reopened the Main Street clinic it had operated years before, giving residents more convenient access to occupational and family medicine care, and specialists including a podiatrist and an orthopedic surgeon in the first year. Other specialists will have clinic hours soon.

"Our goal is to create seamless care for the residents of the Keokuk region," said Kathy Hull, chief of small rural hospitals, Blessing Health System.

### New technology

Blessing Health Keokuk was wired with new technology from business offices to bedside, and now is on the same computer system and using the same programs as the rest of the Blessing system.

Reneau and Hull says the massive computerization project delivered on two goals: Investing in Keokuk's healthcare infrastructure and developing a seamless experience for patients.

"If a patient comes to our emergency room and needs a higher level of care from Blessing, because Blessing Health Keokuk is on the same computer network, the patient and all their related information past and present is already in the system," Reneau said "It's seamless."

"You don't have to worry that your X-ray results are going to make it to Blessing at the same time you make it to Blessing. All your information is already there," Hull added.

# Anniversary event to be held at railroad museum

**HISTORY** - Continued from Page 1

collection of historical items had been donated for a future museum and furnishings for the historic school.

By 1968 the Society was looking for a home for the museum and the ATSF offered the old Depot complex to the City of Fort Madison for \$1.00. The City was required to build a 5' chain link fence between the depot and ATSF tracks. The city council voted it down three times, account funding, but the members of the Society raised nearly \$2,000 to construct the fence and council agreed to lease the buildings to the Society and in 1970 final plans were made for the future museum.

It was a task for the Society to replace windows, clean and paint the Depot and Railway Express agency building as had been open to homeless and was an eye-sore. Later after the abandoned ATSF freight house burnt, the Society added the fire gutted two story Division Freight Office to the leased buildings.

The Society also led a drive to save the Old Lee County Jail next to the Courthouse that it now has leased and maintains and the War of 1812 Battlefield next to the original Old Fort Site that is now on the National Historic Register.

In 2012 the Society also leased the 1895 Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Depot to add to the space needed for the Museum.

The celebration Thursday evening will be held to commemorate the hundreds of volunteers that have kept the dream alive for 60 years and preserved thousands of historic artifacts donated to the Society. Old scrapbooks kept by the early members of the Society and photos will be displayed and a slide show of the Dennis Andrews collection of very old area photos will be presented.

No reservations are needed to attend this event which will be hosted at the CB&Q facility at 804 10th street from 5:30 pm - 8 pm with refreshments and treats furnished by members of the Society.

According to President Kathy Burkhardt the Society at present has over 200 members but still needs more to assure history preserved and shared. Annual membership dues are \$30.00 and Lifetime memberships are available for \$300.00. Tax deductible donations and dues may be mailed to PO Box 285, Fort Madison, Ia. 52627 or dropped by the Museum.



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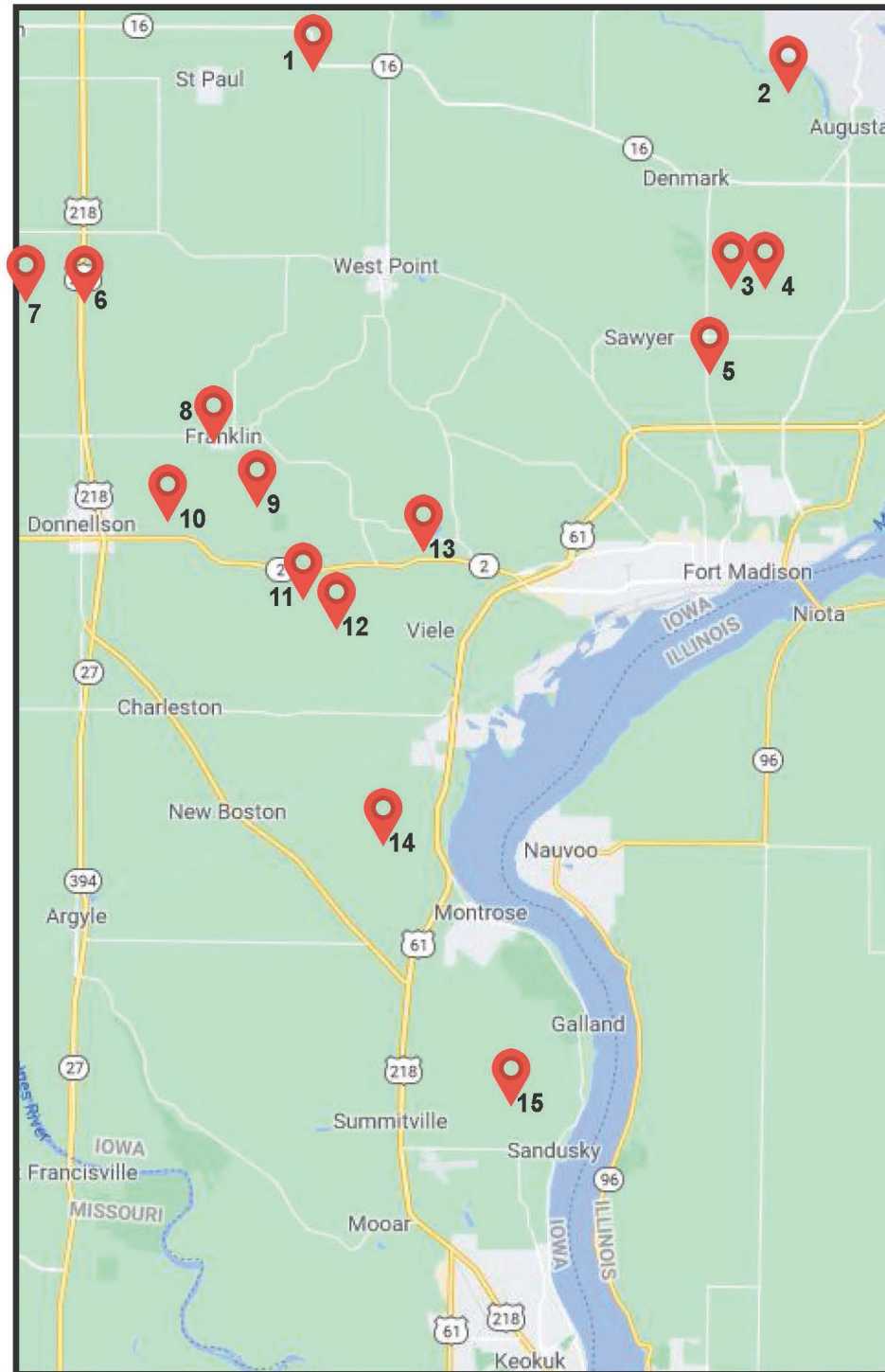
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# YOUR INPUT IS NEEDED ON CHILD CARE

Child care has been identified as an urgent need in Lee County. We need your feedback to understand the challenges families have around child care.

For Business Owners, Upper Management, or HR  
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LeeCoEmployer>

For Parents & Caregivers  
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LeeCoParent>

For Child Care Providers  
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LeeCoChildCare>

**THE SURVEY WILL TAKE 10-15 MINUTES TO COMPLETE. AVAILABLE UNTIL JUNE 15TH.**

Questions? Contact: [bkramer-riesberg@leecountyhd.org](mailto:bkramer-riesberg@leecountyhd.org)  
or call Breanna at (319) 372-5225



Tri-State

Grades  
7-12

# SHOW CHOIR CAMP

JUNE 21-24, 2022  
8:30 AM - 12:30 PM

\$75.00  
PER  
STUDENT

REGISTER  
TODAY



SCAN HERE

## INSTRUCTORS

- TAYLOR STODDARD
- ANNE CHAPMAN
- JASON WOODLEY

## GUEST CLINICIAN

- ALLEN CHAPMAN

- STUDENTS WILL LEARN 2 CHOREOGRAPHED SONGS & A BALLAD
- EVERY STUDENT WILL RECEIVE A T-SHIRT
- BREAKOUT SESSIONS WITH PROFESSIONAL PERFORMERS
- PERFORMANCE AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE CAMP
- SNACKS PROVIDED DAILY

DAILY REHEARSALS AT  
UNION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
719 AVENUE F  
FORT MADISON, IOWA 52627

FINAL PERFORMANCE AT  
FORT MADISON CENTRAL PARK  
JUNE 24TH @ 6:30 PM

This will be 4 days of singing and dancing with local music teachers, professional choreography, and a concert showcase. This camp is intended to sharpen the skills of those currently involved in show choir, and provide an opportunity to participate for those that may not have show choir at their school!

BY POPULAR DEMAND



# BETTER WITH AGE

## ADULT SHOWCHOIR CAMP

**JUNE 21-23, 2022**  
**6:00 PM - 8:30 PM**

FOR THE "ADVANCED" PERFORMER

**REHEARSALS**  
**UNION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**FORT MADISON**  
**6:00 PM - 8:30 PM**

**PERFORMANCE**  
**FORT MADISON CENTRAL PARK**  
**JUNE 24TH @ 6:30 PM**

**COST: \$40.00**  
**PAYABLE TO**  
**TRI-STATE SHOW CHOIR**

- CAMPERS WILL LEARN A CHOREOGRAPHED SONG AND BALLAD
- EVERY CAMPER WILL GET A T-SHIRT
- SNACKS PROVIDED DAILY



**RUN WALK HONOR** ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

# TUNNEL TO TOWERS

## 5K RUN & WALK DONNELLSON

FOLLOW THE FOOTSTEPS OF 9/11 HERO, NEW YORK CITY FIREFIGHTER  
STEPHEN SILLER, TO ENSURE THAT WE NEVER FORGET AND HONOR THE  
SACRIFICES OF OUR NATION'S FIRST RESPONDERS AND MILITARY HEROES.



**STAY INFORMED!**

   **#T2TRUN**

**MONDAY**  
**JULY 4, 2022 7:30AM**

**DONNELLSON FIRE DEPARTMENT**  
616 N MAIN STREET  
DONNELLSON, IA 52625

**FOR MORE INFO & REGISTRATION,**  
VISIT US AT [T2T.ORG](http://T2T.ORG)  
[DONNELLSON@T2T.ORG](mailto:DONNELLSON@T2T.ORG)



 **SCAN ME**